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New *Trichoferus* species and subspecies from Morocco (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae)

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Keywords:

Coleoptera; Cerambycidae; Cerambycinae; *Trichoferus*; *quadriscutatus*; *cisti*; *kadleci*; taxonomy; description; new species; new subspecies; Morocco.

Abstract. – *Trichoferus quadriscutatus* **sp**. **nov**. and *Trichoferus cisti kadleci* **ssp**. **nov**. from Morocco were described. The habitus are illustrated. Comparison with other species of the genus from North Africa was also made.

Skořepa L., 2026. – New *Trichoferus* species and subspecies from Morocco (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae). *Faunitaxys*, 14(23): 1 – 5.

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Introduction

The genus *Trichoferus* represents a taxonomically well-defined group of longhorn beetles of the Palearctic region, comprising about thirty species. Within the western part of the region the species can be divided into several groups. The group of species similar to *Trichoferus fasciculatus* (Faldermann, 1837) is taxonomically complicated and poorly studied. Due to the stability of morphological traits in combination with diverse biological requirements across this group, it is not possible to clearly and unambiguously define distinguishing traits between individual species. The last to describe new species in this group was Giafranco Sama, who focused, among others, on species whose larval development takes place in *Cistus* spp. He described *Trichoferus cisti* Sama, 1987 from Haut Atlas: Tizi n'Test in Morocco in 1987 in North Africa. He derived and compared this species to *Trichoferus spartii* (Müller, 1949). He was modest in his description and distinguished the described taxon only as a subspecies of *T. sparti*. Until then, only *Trichoferus griseus* Fabricius, 1793, *T. fasciculatus* and *Trichoferus holosericeus* Rossi, 1790 had been distinguished in the Maghreb.
According to the available collected material, *T. griseus* and *T. holosericeus* are clearly distinguishable species. Sama (1987) also distinguished another new species, *Trichoferus ilicis* Sama 1987, which he compared to *T. fasciculatus*. Due to the absence of more pronounced external morphological characters and the similarity of individual specimens, he used the sclerotization of the inner sac of the aedeagus as one of the main determining traits. However, not enough material has been collected and examined yet to use this trait as decisive.
When describing a new species of this longhorn beetle group, it is first necessary to establish exactly what the described species *T. fasciculatus* and *T. spartii* represent. The situation is clearer in the case of the species *T. spartii*, which was described from Istrica (Croatia) by Giuseppe Müller in 1948. This species is characterized by a highly arched spherical pronotum, arched shorter elytra, bluntly terminated antennae and uniform evenly distributed light hairs on a chestnut brown body. *T. fasciculatus* was described as *Hesperophanes fasciculatus* by Falderman in 1837 from the Caucasus (Transcaucasia). The type material is apparently lost (Sama, 2023). At the moment, there is no comparative material, but from specimens originating from Azerbaijan and from the description we can deduce the appearance of *T. fasciculatus*. This is a subtle dark brown-black species with a small, slightly arched spherical pronotum, elongated elytra, and rusty colored antennae and legs. The elytra are coarsely punctuated and densely scattered with patches of light hairs, which are not evenly distributed, but in clusters.
T. cisti is distinguished from *T. spartii* as well as from *T. fasciculatus* by the pubescence of the shield and pronotum, which is more evenly distributed, the pronotum of males is more arched and much larger than in females. Sama then stated the sclerotization of the inner sac of the aedeagus as an important trait in the description. As traits different from *T. spartii*, Sama (2023) further mentioned in the description that *T. cisti* has shorter antennae, the denser pubescence of the pronotum and elytra, which conceals deeper punctation, and the erect hairs on the pronotum and elytra are more numerous and longer.
G. Sama in his work from 2023, when commenting on the status and distribution of *T. cisti*, refers to a suspected lowland population of this species, which deserves attention and further examination. Over many years, many specimens of *Trichoferus* sp. were gradually collected from various parts of Morocco and Algeria, which could not be classified as any of already described species. Also, the prominent Czech entomologist and greatest expert on longhorn beetles Stanislav Kadlec had incompletely determined individuals of the genus *Trichoferus* from this area in his collection, with the remark that one day a new species would be described based on them. I have obtained individuals of another clearly distinguishable species from another friend during my efforts to gather sufficient material to clarify the taxonomy of the genus in the area. In the following text, I therefore present two new taxa of the genus *Trichoferus* originating from Morocco and Algeria.

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Material and Methods

Individuals of the newly described species were obtained by rearing larvae in wood imported from the type locality. The wood was deposited in plastic boxes with perforated lids. Natural conditions from the sites of discovery were simulated to preserve the larvae, especially temperature and humidity. The habitus of all specimens was taken by the Canon EOS 350D digital camera with the Sigma 105 mm macro lens. Composite images were created using the software Image Stacking Software Combine ZP. Microstructures of dissected parts were observed under the DNT DigiMicro Profi USB microscope. Each photograph was taken as several partially focused images and afterwards composed in the Helicon Focus 3.20.2 Pro software. The photographs were modified using Adobe Photoshop CC.

Specimens examined including type materials are deposited in the following collection:

NMP – collection of National Museum (Praha)
LS – collection of Lukáš Skořepa (Peč, Czech Republic)
DS – collection of David Šanc (Plzeň, Czech Republic)

The new species is compared with closely related taxa, which were represented by the following material.

Trichoferus fasciculatus (Faldermann, 1837)

Type locality. – "Transcaucasia".

Material

1 ♂, **2** ♀, USSR, Azerb. SSR, 60 km of Baku, Aljat, 13. -16.vi.1983, leg. V. Kubáň (NMP); Kadi Keui, Constantinople, leg. V.M. Duchon (NMP); Caucasus, Tiflis, leg. E. Koening (NMP).

Note. – After examining many specimens from Morocco, I have come to the conclusion that this could be a subspecies *T. fasciculatus senex* Wollaston, 1854 described from Madeira and also known from the Canary Islands. To resolve this question, it will be necessary to collect a larger material for comparison.

Trichoferus cisti Sama, 1987

Type locality. – Tizi-n'Test (Morocco).

Material

1 ♂, Morocco, Tizi-n'Test, 30°50.1'N 08°22.6', v.2007, leg. F. Kovařík (LS);
4 ♀, Morocco, Tizi-n'Test, ex. *Cistus*, lar., 27. – 28.v.2014, leg. L. Skořepa (LS);
1 ♂, Morocco, 10 km N Tizi-n'Test, 30°91'N 08°31', vii.20014, ex.lar, leg. Z. Košťál (LS).

Trichoferus spartii (Müller, 1948)

Type locality. – Istria (Croatia)

Material

4 ♂, **4** ♀, Croatia, Drašnice env., 17. – 20. vii. 2013, leg. L.Skořepa, (LS);
2 ♂, **1** ♀, Croatia, Primoštěn env., 8. viii. 2017, leg. J.Bauer, (LS);
1 ♂, Croatia, Senj env., v.2013, ex. *Spartium*, leg. L. Skořepa, (LS);
1 ♀, Croatia, Jakov Polje env., 17.vii.2010, leg. L. Skořepa, (LS);
1 ♂, Croatia, Krasno env., 20.vii.2011, leg. V.Gregor, (LS).

Taxonomy

Tribe **Cerambycinae**

Genus ***Trichoferus*** Wollaston, 1854

Trichoferus quadriscutatus **sp**. **nov**.

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/1803FE84-D8DC-4671-B2BA-07FBDA9CBED6

Type locality. – Morocco, 29°42'57.47"N 9°30'37.20"W, 20km E Tiznit, 2,5km NE Assaka, 170 m.

Holotype (Fig. 1), ♂, Morocco, 29°42'57.47"N 9°30'37.20"W, 20 km E Tiznit, 2,5 km NE Assaka, ex. *Nerium oleander*, 170 m, 3.vi.2022, K. Hodek lgt. (LS).

Paratypes, **1** ♂, **1** ♀ (KH), same data as holotype.

Description

Body length from 6 to 18 mm. Body primarily dark brown, antennae, legs, base of elytra and partly also the belt in the back half of elytra light brown to rusty. The head is covered with yellowish dense pubescence, only the protruding frons is bald. The pronotum is rectangular in shape with a distinct sharply protruding front edge. Its highest part is in the front edge. At first sight, the shape of pronotum seems to be completely rectangular. The pronotum, as well as the head, is covered with dense recumbent yellowish-coloured pubescence. Three longitudinal short depressions are clearly visible at the base of the pronotum. The pronotum without long hairs. Scutellum of dark brown colour with a dense covering of short yellowish pubescence. Elytra are elongated, sparsely punctuated with a hint of longitudinal ridges. From the punctures on the elytra, obliquely erect rusty hairs sparsely grow. The antennae of males clearly extend beyond the middle of the elytra, in females they barely reach the middle of the elytra. The first five antennal segments are covered with recumbent light pubescence, the other segments are covered with much shorter and less dense recumbent hairs. In addition, the first five segments have long erect hairs, with the most on the third segment. From the sixth segment onwards, long hairs are present only sporadically. The legs are covered with a mixture of recumbent white to yellowish hairs with occasional presence of long erect rusty hairs. Habitus of male holotype is presented at Fig. 1.

Differential diagnosis

The newly described species can only be compared with *T. c. kadleci*, from which it differs mainly in the shape and dimensions of the pronotum and also in the bare and wrinkled frons. Other species of the genus in North Africa are completely different, both in body shape and in other traits such as hairiness. For better clarity, I also provide an identification key in this publication, which is based on the work of Sama (2023). The genus *Trichoferus* is quite unstable in the shapes of the aedeagus and parameres cannot be taken as a distinguishing traits. But in *T. qudriscutatus* **sp**. **nov**. I am convinced that the shape of the parameres as seen in Fig. 2, is a helpful trait, namely the clearly visible narrow V shape between their vertices.

Discussion. – At first glance, this species can be assigned to the genus *Hesperoferus* (Demelt, 1971) due to the shape and size of the pronotum of the males. However, according to other traits, it completely corresponds to the genus *Trichoferus*. The females do not differ much from other representatives of the genus. According to the data collected so far, it is distributed south of the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

Biology. – All the specimens known to date were reared from dead branches of oleander (*Nerium oleander*) growing in the wadi.

Etymology. – The name of the newly described species comes from the Latin word for "one who has a square pronotum", which is one of the traits that at first sight refers to this beautiful longhorn beetle from the genus *Trichoferus*.

Trichoferus cisti kadleci **ssp**. **nov**.

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/D9FEE053-9FCE-4707-9F1A-CAE032EF03BE

Type locality. – Morocco, Aourir env.,

Holotype (Fig. 3), ♂, Morocco, Aourir env., ex. *Vachellia gummifera*, 24.v.2014, lgt. L.Skořepa (LS).

Paratypes:

6 ♂, **7** ♀ (LS); **7** ♂, **7** ♀ (DS), same data as holotype;
1 ♂, Morocco, Gordes du Torde, 3km N Tinerhir, 1.-30.v.1998, leg. M.Šárovec (NMP);
1 ♂, Algerien, Mecheria, 1998, ex.lar, leg. Kudrna (NMP).

1

2

Fig. **1-2**. *Trichoferus quadriscutatus* **sp**. **nov**., holotype.
1. Dorsal view. **2**. Genitalia (lateral lobes, tergite VIII, ventral side of penis).

3

4

Fig. **3-4**. *Trichoferus cisti kadleci* **ssp**. **nov**., holotype.
3. Dorsal view. **4**. Genitalia (lateral lobes, tergite VIII, ventral side of penis).

Description

Body length varies from 7 to 18 mm. Habitus of male holotype is presented at Fig. 3. Body colour is primarily rusty brown to brown. The surface of the entire body is covered with fine greyish to yellowish pubescence. The pronotum in males is noticeably swollen with the highest arch in the first third of the length. The entire surface of the pronotum is covered with dense fine recumbent pubescence. Erect long hairs are completely absent. The elytra are elongated and arched. Fine recumbent pubescence covers the entire surface of the elytra, not uniformly but somewhat patchy. There are also erect long hairs on the entire surface of the elytra. Scutellum is dark brown with a dense covering of short yellowish pubescence. The antennae of males exceed the middle of the elytra and the first six segments are covered with dense whitish short recumbent pubescence, which occurs much more sparsely on the other segments. Similarly, long erect hairs are distributed in the same pattern on the antennae. The genitalia of males are shown at Fig. 4.

Differential diagnosis

This newly described subspecies must be compared primarily with *T. cisti cisti* and also *T. quadriscutatus*. It can be distinguished from these taxa by the shape of the pronotum, the structure and distribution of the pubescence. Other distinguishing traits are the surface of the frons and the shape of the parameres. For a clearer distinction, this publication also provides an identification key compiled based on the work of Sama (2023) and a visual demonstration of the typical habitus of the individual species.

Discussion. – This taxon has been discussed for many years and I think the discussion will continue. The genus *Trichoferus* is a very complex group; only the study of a sufficient number of individuals can allow us to distinguish the individual species that the group contains. *T. cisti kadleci*, by its appearance and also by its bionomy, represents a separate distinguishable taxon, which cannot yet be considered a species. First, it is still necessary to answer several questions and perform appropriate analyses.

Biology. – The species is distributed south of the High Atlas and adjacent parts of Algeria. The larvae feed in *Vachellia* spp. and their galleries are irregular, comparable to those of *T. griseus* in Ficus.

Etymology. – The subspecies is named after the greatest Czech expert on longhorn beetles of recent decades, Stanislav Kadlec. After his death, it was discovered that he had this taxon specially marked in his collection and was preparing to describe it. Dedicated to his memory.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Petr Kabátek (Prague) for valuable information that led to the gathering of sufficient material, Karel Hodek (Brno) for lending the beetles from his collection, and Jiří Foit (Mendels University in Brno, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Czech Republic) for indispensable help with the compilation of the manuscript.

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Identification key to species of the genus *Trichoferus* from Africa

1. Elytra without long erect hairs . . . . . ***Trichoferus holosericeus*** (Rossi)

– Elytra with long erect hairs **2**

2. Antennae of males as long as the body; antennae without (♂♂) or with very sparse hairs. Species that develops in *Ficus carica* . . . . . ***Trichoferus griseus*** (Fabricius)

– Antennae in both sexes clearly shorter than the body; pronotum in males without erect hairs; femora in both sexes with a few erect hairs. Species developing in various deciduous and coniferous trees **3**

3. Small circular pronotum, only slightly arched, with a few long hairs.

3a. Body surface light brown to rusty, matt. Polyphagous species with widespread distribution . . . . . ***Trichoferus fasciculatus*** (Faldermann)

3b. Body surface dark brown, shiny. Species from the Middle and High Atlas in Morocco, feeding on *Quercus rotundifolia* . . . . ***Trichoferus ilicis*** Sama

– Large and very arched pronotum, completely without long hairs; frons flat. Species developing in deciduous trees **4**

– Large and distinctly squared pronotum; frons arched and slightly wrinkled above the labrum **5**

4. Body surface light brown to brown, with denser greyish pubescence; elytra with a limited whitish pubescence; pronotum in males usually conspicuously swollen and highest approximately in the middle; elytra somewhat dull; entire body with sparse erect bristles. Species from the Mediterranean region, feeding on various plants and shrubs (*Berberis*, *Cistus*, Fabaceae – e.g. *Astragalus*) . . . . . ***Trichoferus cisti cisti*** Sama

– Body surface darker, brown to dark brown, with dense greyish to yellowish pubescence; pronotum in males noticeably swollen with highest arch in the first third of the length. Species developing mainly on *Vachellia* in southern Morocco . . . . . ***Trichoferus cisti kadleci*** **ssp**. **nov**.

5. Species from the area south of the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Development in *Nerium oleander* . . . . . ***Trichoferus quadriscutatus*** **sp**. **nov**.

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Résumé

Skořepa L., 2026. – Nouvelles espèces et sous-espèces de *Trichoferus* du Maroc (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae). *Faunitaxys*, 14(23): 1 – 5.

Les espèces *Trichoferus quadriscutatus* **sp**. **nov**. et *Trichoferus cisti kadleci* **ssp**. **nov**., originaires du Maroc, sont décrites. Leurs caractéristiques morphologiques sont illustrées. Une comparaison avec d'autres espèces du genre présentes en Afrique du Nord a également été effectuée.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, *Trichoferus*, *quadriscutatus*, *cisti*, *kadleci*, taxonomie, description, espèce nouvelle, sous-espèce nouvelle, Maroc.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Morocco, Aourir env type locality of *Trichoferus cisti kadleci* **ssp**. **nov**.

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